RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 29th April, 1987/9 Vaisakha, 1987 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the ..clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Grant for construction of Hostels for working Women by Voluntary Organisations

*201. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a policy decision some time in 1980 to provide aid to the extent of 75 per cent of cost of land and construction of hostels for working women of registered voluntary organisations;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, indicating the names of such organisations which have been offered such grant-in-aid in the Union Territory of Delhi;

(c) whether Government have since decided to allot land for the purpose to bonafide societies and trusts in the Union Territory of Delhi at reserved price; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative what are the administrative, technical and other difficulties for not allotting such land at concessional prices for the construction of such hostels despite the acute shortage thereof in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

With effect from 1st February, 1987, the Government of India has decided to provide financial assistance to the extent of 50 per cent of the cost of land to voluntary organisations for the construction of working women's hostels, by liberalising the existing Scheme. The existing Scheme already provides for financial assistance to voluntary organisations to the extent of 75 per cent of the cost of construction of hostels. No proposal from any voluntary organisation in Delhi under the liberalised scheme has so far been received.

The allotment of land to social, religious, cultural and other organisations which are non-profit making character and are registered societies or trusts, is made at a 'no profit, no loss rate by the Government. This includes allotment of land for construction of working women's hostels by voluntary organisations.

श्रीमती प्रतिभा सिंह : मैं मंत्री महोदया से जानना चाहती हूं कि दिल्ली में अभी तक सरकार के पास कोई आंकड़े हैं कि कितने वर्किंग वीमैन होस्टल्स की आवश्यकता है और इस काम को पूरा करने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was wondering whether you Opposition people had boycotted today! (*Interruptions*).

श्रीमती प्रतिभा सिंह : क्योंकि मेरी जानकारी है कि एक एक होस्टल में अभी तक एक एक हजार लोग वेटिंग लिस्ट पर हैं। इन वर्किंग वीमैन होस्टल में सिक्योरिटी का जो प्रबन्ध करना है, व्यवस्था करनी है वह इस स्कीम के अंदर है या नहीं और जो जमीन वर्किंग वीमैन होस्टल्स के लिए दी जा रही है उसमें क्या यह ध्यान रखा जा रहा है कि सेंट्रल जगह पर यह हो ताकि महिलाओं को काम पर जाने में कोई दिक्कत न हो और इसके साथ ही जो महिलायें काम पर जाती हैं उनके बच्चों के लिए क्या व्यवस्था है ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, there are four questions to be answered on this point.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: This is only one question and I will put my second question afterwards.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, four questions have been raised. I would, first of all, like to say that we have not conducted any survey about the needs in Delhi for working women's hostels. Under the scheme, we receive applications for the construction of working women's hostels from voluntary organisations, trusts involved in women's welfare, local bodies and so on, and after studying the capacity of the voluntary organisations to run these hostels, sanction is given.

Sir, as far as land is concerned, land is not provided by us. In Delhi, there are three separate authorities dealing with allotment of land. But the rules are common to all the three of them. They charge, at the moment, eight lakhs of rupees per acre and this is also considered far below the market value of the land and these working women's hostels are given land under the category which is known as the institutional rate.

As far as security in the hostels is concerned, it is for those who run and manage these hostels to see that these provisions are made. As far as the day-care centres for the children are concerned, we have amended the scheme since 1980 and have provided that the day-care centres for the children of those residing in the hostels are provided in the scheme itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mrs. Pratibha Singh, please put your second supplementary.

श्रीमती प्रतिभा सिंह : इसमें शक नहीं है कि एक फरवरी, 1987 को भारत सरकार ने जो वर्तमान योजना थी उसको अधिक उदार बनाया है वर्किंग वीमैन के लिए । मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं कि यह जो 50 परसेंट आपने अपने स्टेटमेंट में कहा है कि जमीन की खरीद में आप सहायता करेंगे तो यह जो 8 लाख रुपए पर एकड़ इंस्टीट्यूशन्स को मिलता है.. (व्यवधान) पहले शायद कम था तो किन परिस्थितियों में यह राशि बढ़ा दी गयी है और जो 50 प्रतिशत आपने वित्तीय सहायता देने का तय किया है, पहले जो 75 प्रतिशत आप निर्माण कार्य के लिए देते थे, यह उसके अलावा है क्या ? यह जो आपने वर्किंग वीमैन के लिए व्यवस्था की है, क्या यह दूसरी मैट्रोपोलिटन सिटीज में भी लागू होगी, क्या प्रदेशों में भी ये लागू होगी या नहीं ? अगर नहीं तो इसके लिए आपकी तरफ से प्रदेशों को कोई व्यवस्था दी जाएगी ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, first of all, I would like to say that with regard to the land and the cost of construction, the 50 per cent cost of land is in addition to the 75 per cent cost of construction which was being given. Since 1st February this year, we have decided, in view of the rising land prices, to pay 50 per cent of the cost of land as well. So it is in addition to the construction cost. Right from the beginning of 1972 when the scheme was launched it has been extended to the entire country—not only to the metropolitan cities but also small towns and cities. I must say that originally we did have a population limit. It was first ten lakhs and above. It was reduced to 2 lakhs and above. We have now provided that any one with a certificate that more than 25 women in a particular place need a hostel can apply, whether it is a small town or it is a rural area, provided there are women who need this assistance.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not agree with the hon. Minister that the market price of land in Delhi is higher than what has been given by the authorities. The Urban Land Ceiling Act is applicable to Delhi. According to this Act, the surplus land can be acquired by the Government by paying not more than Rs. 10

per sq. metre. As such, I do not agree with the hon. Minister that the market price is higher than what has been paid by three authorities. As such the price of land will be very much low. This is required for the working women's hostel. As such the Government will give full assistance for the land allotted for the purpose of these hostels.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I must admit that our department does not directly deal with the allotment of land. I assure the hon. Members that what I am stating are the facts. There are three categories. The institutional rate is Rs. 8 lakhs per acre as of today. You have the incentive. Rs. 10,000 per acre is charged for hostels and aided schools, which is the special, subsidised rate. And then you have the pre-determined land rate that is, the market rate, for commercial and residential areas. The working women's hostels come under the institutional rate, which is cheaper than what is charged for commercial and residential rates. The allotment of land is done by the local Governments. We do not directly go into this, though they do refer to us about our intention of giving the particular organisation or the local body the grant for the building before the allotment is done.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : माननीय सभापति, महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी बताया कि दिल्ली में वर्किंग विमन होस्टलज की कितनी आवश्यकता है, पर इस के लिए कोई सर्वे नहीं करवा रहे हैं। तो महिला कल्याण कार्यों के लिए जितनी बड़ी आवश्यकता है, उतनी उसकी पूर्ति नहीं हो रही है और इसका आप सर्वे भी नहीं करवा रहे हैं। तो एक तो उसका कारण बताने की कृपा करें कि कोई सर्वे क्यों नहीं करवा रहे हैं ?

दूसरा पार्ट है कि किसानों का हम हमेशा शोर मचाते रहते हैं कि किसान की जमीन पांच रुपए पर स्कुअर मीटर पर एक्वायर की जाती है और आठ लाख प्रति एकड़ आप इसका मूल्य बता रहे हैं, तो यह बीच में पैसा कौन खा रहा है, इसको भी जरा बताएं ? आपने किसानों के लिए पांच रुपए पर स्कुअर मीटर और दूसरों के लिए आठ लाख रुपए पर एकड़ जमीन की कीमत बताई है।

मेरा तीसरा पार्ट है . . . (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No 'teesra'..... (*Interruptions*).

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : वह इसी में बतला देंगे। क्या सरकार के दिमाग में देश की राजधानी में भी वर्किंग विमन होस्टल के निर्माण के लिए कोई योजना है और यदि नहीं है, तो क्यों ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, under this scheme which is now in operation, we do not construct or run hostels ourselves. Grants are given to voluntary organisations and others. In Delhi there are today 13 working women's hostels sanctioned, out of which 10 are occupied; 3 are under construction. As I said earlier, we do not directly conduct surveys. According to the requirements, applications from the States and local organisations, we sanction the grants. They construct the hostels and they run them. We don't intend taking on this responsibility.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : मान्यवर, इसे उपयोगी और आवश्यक योजना तो मानते हैं, लेकिन मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि दिल्ली में जो स्वयं सेवी संगठन हैं उनका आधार क्या है ? दूसरा, दिल्ली के अलावा देश के अन्य शहरों में भी ऐसे कुछ छात्रावास बने हैं उनकी कोई सूची क्या आपके पास है ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I have got a state-wise break-up of the hostels which have been constructed throughout the country. Today we have got a total of 412 hostels. I have got the break-up of the accommodation available in each hostel. I can give it to the hon. Member state-wise also. About Delhi, I do not want

to say that we want to treat Delhi on a different footing from the rest of the country. The total accommodation provided is 25,933 at the moment in the hostels which we have directly funded.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask how many voluntary organisations from other States have applied for construction of women's hostels.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, as I said, I have got the state-wise break-up in respect of all the 25 States. I can give you. But we do not have the names of organisations here. I can give you the break-up of the number of hostels whch we have sanctioned to the organisations as and when they have applied.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: He is interested in Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: So far, we have received only one application from Jammu and Kashmir for a hostel which has been sanctioned. It has the capacity to accommodate 15 working women.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: To a very significant extent, the hostels for working women is a conditton of freedom of women. If the working women can have this much of freedom, that will help women's lib movement also. Unfortunately, when we talk of women, we talk only of the so-called middle-class women. There are plenty of women who are also perhaps below the poverty line or just above that. Is there any arrangement to provide hostels to them? For instance, even in Delhi, in the North Avenue, plenty of women come from all parts of the country and they have to sleep on the wayside in various localities. Can we provide or can we think to provide hostels for this kind of women?

Secondly, you are providing 50 per cent of the cost of land and 75 per cent of the cost of construction. Are these subsidies or loans with low interest? What are they? I want to know that. If that is subsidy, why can't they take bank loans directly?

MR. CHAIRMAN. I am making a rule that hereafter the supplementary must be confined only to one.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: This is one question only. It is part (c).

MR. CHAIRMAN: There will be only one question.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Is it a profit or non-profit making organisation?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I would like to say that it is an outright grant. We do not charge interest. This grant is not returned to us. It is an outright grant. Secondly, I would like to say that when we talk of working women's hostel, I am not talking about private industries or others who provide housing facilities to their workers. Public sector also provides accommodation and other facilities. We have decided that they should be working women. Preference is given to married women, separated women and widows. We even allow them to keep their children up to the age of 8 provided they can get facilities when they go to work. And we have recently raised the maximum limit of salary which is Rs. 2,000 consolidated for any one seeking admission into a hostel. And it is not a profit-making proposition. We have fixed the rates that may be charged which is a percentage of the income of the girls staying there depending upon double room or single room or dormitory type of accommodation. They cannot charge beyond what has been fixed by us under the rules.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 202.